

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~ or double brackets [[ ]]. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 3, 7, 25, 26-32 without prejudice or disclaimer and AMEND claims 1, 17, 19, 33, 36, 39-42 in accordance with the following:

1. **(currently amended)** An objective lens device comprising three lenses wherein:  
 a first of the three lenses has a negative power and is formed of a material having an Abbe number which is 45 or less in line d;  
 at least one of the three lenses comprises an aspherical surface;  
a numerical aperture of the objective lens device is 0.70 or more; and  
 where a focal length of the first lens is  $f_n$  and an overall focal length of the objective lens device is  $f$ , the objective lens device satisfies the equation:

$$-2.4 < \frac{f_n}{f} < -1.4.$$

2. **(original)** The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a second of the three lenses has a positive power and the first lens is combined with the second lens to be a doublet so that a structure of the objective lens device is formed in two groups of lenses.

3. **(cancelled)**

4. **(previously presented)** The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first lens is formed of glass or plastic.

5. **(original)** The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
 second and third lenses of the three lenses have a positive power, and  
 the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses.

6. **(original)** The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein a third of the three lenses has a positive power and the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses.

7. **(cancelled)**

8. **(previously presented)** The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein second and third lenses of the three lenses have a positive power and the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses.

9-16 **(cancelled)**

17. **(currently amended)** An optical pickup comprising:

a light source which emits light;

an objective lens device which focuses the light emitted from the light source into a light spot formed on a recording medium, the objective lens device comprising three lenses, wherein:

a first of the three lenses has a negative power and is formed of a material having an Abbe number which is 45 or less in line d, and

at least one surface of surfaces of the three lenses is aspherical,

the objective lens device has a numerical aperture of 0.70 or more, and

where a focal length of the first lens is  $f_n$  and an overall focal length of the objective lens device is  $f$ , the objective lens device satisfies the equation:

$$-2.4 < \frac{f_n}{f} < -1.4;$$

an optical path changer which changes a proceeding path of incident light, the optical path changer arranged on an optical path between the light source and the objective lens device; and

a photodetector which receives light reflected by the recording medium and via the objective lens device and the optical path changer.

18. **(original)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 17, wherein a second of the three lenses has a positive power and the first lens is combined with the second lens to be a doublet.

19. **(currently amended)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 17, wherein the light source emits light having a wavelength ( $\lambda$ ) in a range of  $400\text{nm} \leq \lambda \leq 420\text{nm}$  ~~in a range including 400 and 420 nm and the objective lens device has a numerical aperture which is 0.70 or more.~~

20. **(original)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 17, wherein the first lens is formed of glass or plastic.

21. **(previously presented)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 17, wherein second and third lenses of the three lenses have a positive power and the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses.

22. **(original)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 18, wherein a third of the three lenses has a positive power and the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses.

23. **(previously presented)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 19, wherein second and third lenses of the three lenses have a positive power and the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses.

24. **(original)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 20, wherein the second and third of the three lenses have a positive power and the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses.

25-32 **(cancelled)**

33. **(currently amended)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 17, wherein the Abbe number of the material of the first lens is in a range including ~~27.5 and 31.2~~ formed of a material having an Abbe number ( $A_N$ ) in line d in a range where  $27.5 \leq A_N \leq 31.2$ .

34. **(original)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 17, wherein the Abbe number of the material of the first lens is 35 or less.

35. **(original)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 21, wherein the aspherical surface

is formed on one of the second and third lenses.

36. **(currently amended)** An optical pickup for recording information to and/or reproducing information from a recording medium, the optical pickup comprising:

a light source which emits light ;

a photodetector; and

an optical system which communicates the emitted light to the recording medium and communicates light reflected by the recording medium to the photodetector, the optical system comprising:

an objective lens device which forms the emitted light into a light spot on the recording medium, the objective lens device comprising first, second and third lenses, wherein:

the first lens has a negative power and is formed of a material having an Abbe number which is 45 or less in line d,

the second and third lenses have a positive power,

one of the second and third lenses is aspherical, and

the first lens is disposed between the second and third lenses on an optical path between the light source and the recording medium, [[.]]

the objective lens device has a numerical aperture of 0.70 or more, and

where a focal length of the first lens is  $f_n$  and an overall focal length of the objective lens device is  $f$ , the objective lens device satisfies the equation:

$$\underline{-2.4 < \frac{f_n}{f} < -1.4.}$$

37. **(original)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 36, wherein the first lens and the second lens are arranged to form a doublet.

38. **(original)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 36, wherein the Abbe number is in a range of 35 or less.

39. **(currently amended)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 36, wherein the Abbe number  $(A_N)$  is in a range including where  $27.5 \leq A_N \leq 31.2$ . ~~27.5 and 31.2.~~

40. **(currently amended)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim [36] 37, wherein the Abbe number ( $A_N$ ) is in a range including where  $27.5 \leq A_N \leq 31.2$ , ~~27.5 and 31.2.~~

41. **(currently amended)** The optical pickup as claimed in claim 36, wherein the light source emits light having a wavelength ( $\lambda$ ) in a range of  $400\text{nm} \leq \lambda \leq 420\text{nm}$  ~~including 400 and 420 nm.~~

42. **(currently amended)** An optical pickup for recording information to and/or reproducing information from a recording medium, the optical pickup comprising:

a light source which emits light having a wavelength ( $\lambda$ ) in a range of  $400\text{nm} \leq \lambda \leq 420\text{nm}$ ;

a photodetector; and

an objective lens device which forms the emitted light as a spot on the recording medium and communicates light reflected by the recording medium toward the photodetector, the objective lens device comprising:

a first lens having a negative power and formed of a material having an Abbe number which is 45 or less in line d,

a second lens having a positive power and forming a doublet with the first lens,  
and

a third lens having a positive power, wherein:

one of the second and third lenses is aspherical, and

the objective lens device has a numerical aperture of 0.70 or more.